

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, all American families benefit when the Dow Jones Industrial Average closed at a record high of nearly 26,000 last week. Students benefit as college endowments grow, reducing tuition costs. Retirees benefit as their retirement accounts appreciate. With increased liquidity, jobs are created for small businesses.

It is undeniable that the stock market, with the positive leadership of President Trump, has soared.

Rush Limbaugh was correct on his program today that the growth is unprecedented. One year after President Trump was elected, the stock market increased by 28.5 percent. Today, the Dow Jones hit another record high, up over 7,200 points since the 2016 election. Since the start of the year, the stock market has already reached six new record highs.

I am grateful for the leadership of President Trump, who has tweeted this achievement, with the leadership of Speaker PAUL RYAN and House Republicans. This has promoted economic growth through the anticipation and enactment of bills creating immediate jobs, reduced regulations to allow small businesses to begin hiring again, and reformed our Tax Code so that families will be able to keep more of their hard-earned paycheck.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

MEDIA DISDAIN FOR THE AMERICAN FAMILY

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, we already knew, from their daily attacks, that the media disdained the President. What we didn't know with a certainty, until last week, was that the media also disdained the American family.

How else to explain their front-paging and televising, at all hours, a four-letter expletive that would be seen by children across America?

CNN reportedly used the word 195 times in one day. Sad.

There was a time when the media would show some respect for family values, but no more. Words that might have been omitted or not spelled out are now broadcast in their entirety. That is the media's decision to make, but it is a poor decision for the American family.

HONORING RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on Religious Freedom Day to celebrate the numerous faiths that people hold across this great Nation.

Today, we commemorate the 232nd anniversary of the passing of a State law that has shaped and secured our important legacy on religious liberty.

On January 16, 1786, the Virginia General Assembly passed the Virginia Statute for Religious Freedom. The bill, written by Thomas Jefferson, states: "... all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion. . . ."

Just a few years later, this bill served as the inspiration for the First Amendment, which affirms our right to choose and exercise faith without government coercion or retaliation.

Today, Americans from diverse ethnic and religious backgrounds remain committed to the values of faith, honesty, integrity, and patriotism.

Mr. Speaker, our Constitution and laws guarantee Americans the right not just to believe as they see fit, but to freely exercise their religion.

We observe this day in our homes and schools and houses of worship because we have the freedom and the right to do so.

LORI LOWERY SHOWS THE BEST IN TEXAS

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, the people of my hometown of Sugar Land, Texas, are amazing.

Last Thursday, something terrible happened on a road I drive on every day at home. On Interstate 69, an 18-wheeler jackknifed during heavy rain. It flew off an overpass, crashing down on a small Toyota Camry. Look. That Camry is about 3 feet tall.

The first miracle is that the driver, Karan Singh, is still alive. The second miracle that day is named Lori Lowery. Lori is training to be a nurse, most likely across the street at the University of Houston Sugar Land. The crash happened right in front of her. She jumped out of her car, crawled through metal and broken glass, and got Karan out.

Lori Lowery shows the best in Texas and my hometown of Sugar Land, and I am proud to call her my boss in Congress.

PUERTO RICO DESERVES BETTER

(Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN of Puerto Rico. Mr. Speaker, 4 months after Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, 40 percent of our people still lack electricity, with a system barely patched up. Of almost 80,000 homes approved to receive the temporary "blue roof," only half of them have been installed.

Those are only two examples. The hurricane season will be back in 5

months, and then we will be required to start all over again. The situation demands extreme urgency from all Federal agencies.

What is taking so long? Where is the sense of urgency?

This would never be tolerated in any State.

The provisions of the Stafford Act limit us to only patching things up. The supplemental disaster appropriations bill addressed this, but it is stalled in the Senate.

We expect better. We deserve better. We will work to lift ourselves up, but we need the tools to do so. We expect the Federal agencies to act urgently.

BENEFITS OF THE TAX CUTS AND JOBS ACT

(Mrs. HANDEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. HANDEL. Mr. Speaker, last month, the House passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. Already these pro-growth policies are having a positive impact. Businesses are making investments in operations and people.

Thane Brooks operates a resource center for children with special needs in Alpharetta, Georgia. Because businesses can now immediately expense new equipment purchases, Thane is able to open a second facility to serve even more special needs children.

Georgia-based Aflac announced that it will increase contributions to employee retirement plans. AT&T, with nearly 3,000 employees in the Sixth District, gave a \$1,000 bonus to non-management employees as a direct result of the tax cut bill.

Overall, more than 2 million workers across the country are feeling the benefits of this law through increased wages, bonuses, and more retirement dollars. And with paychecks for nearly every American set to increase in the coming weeks, there is even more good news on the horizon for American families.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 12, 2018.

Hon. PAUL D. RYAN,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

Dear MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 12, 2018, at 11:15 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 984.

That the Senate passed without an amendment H.R. 4641.

Appointment: